

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18615 311659Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-04 BIB-01 /059 W

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O 311635Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8346

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS MOSCOW 18615

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, CSCE

SUBJECT: TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

1. AT 1715 THIS EVENING MOSCOW TIME, P&C COUNSELOR WAS ASKED TO APPEAR WITHIN HALF HOUR IN OFFICE OF MFA PRESS DIVISION CHIEF SOFINSKIY, TO HEAR A "STATEMENT OF INTEREST TO JOURNALISTS, WHICH IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CSCE FINAL ACT." PRESS ATTACHE ACCOMPANIED.

2. SOFINSKIY BEGAN BY NOTING THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAD REACHED A DECISION TO EASE TRAVEL CONTROL FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, IN KEEPING WITH FINAL ACT OF CSCE.

3. HE THEN READ IN RUSSIAN ONE PAGE TEXT SAYING THAT TRAVEL CONTROLS FOR JOURNALISTS WOULD BE EASED AS OF MARCH 1, 1976.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 18615 311659Z

ESSENCE OF CHANGE IS THAT JOURNALISTS WILL THEREAFTER BE UNDER

WHAT APPEARS TO BE SAME TRAVEL CONTROL REGIME AS DIPLOMATS
RESIDENT IN MOSCOW. WHILE IN PAST JOURNALISTS REQUIRED "VISAS", IN
FUTURE THEY WOULD SIMPLY NOTIFY MFA OF TRAVEL PLANS. THIS DOES NOT
CHANGE FACT THAT APPRECIABLE PORTION OF USSR IS CLOSED TO ALL
FOREIGNERS. TEXT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

4. REFERRING TO ANOTHER DOCUMENT, WHICH HE DID NOT HAND OVER,
SOFINSKIY SAID THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT "HOPED" THAT THE USG
WOULD RECIPROCATATE IN EASING TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR SOVIET
JOURNALISTS IN THE USA.

5. UK CHARGE AND PRESS ATTACHE WAITING TO SEE SOFINSKY AS
EMBOFFS DEPARTED. UK CHARGE WAS INFORMED THAT NEW REGUL-
ATIONS FOR BRITISH CORRESPONDENTS WOULD BE INTRODUCED MARCH
1 "ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY".

6. PRESS DIVISION OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFFS "ALL" EMBASSIES WHICH
HAVE JOURNALISTS ACCREDITED TO USSR WOULD BE INFORMED.

7. MFA PRESS DIVISION INFORMED AP AND UPI OF DECISION BUT
REFERRED THEM TO EMBASSY FOR DETAILS.

MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRAVEL CONTROLS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW18615
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750451-0557
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975121/aaaaaor.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <09 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN JOURNALISTS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006